The annual production and estimated gap between and supply for the period 1997-2000 would depend upon the Ninth Plan power programme which is under finalisation by the Planning Commission.

(c) Government has initiated several measures which, *inter alia* include accelerated capacity addition, renovation and modernisation of existing power stations to improve operational efficiency, mobilisation of resources through Private sector participation etc. The Common Minimum National Action Plan for power drawn up by the Government aims to improve the working of the SEBS set up Regulatory Commission to rationalise tariffs and encounter Private investment in the power sector. The State Government has been urged to implement the Action Plans in a time bound manner.

Review of the Power Policy

543. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be please to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in "The Hindu" (Delhi Edition) dated 2nd June. 1997 under the heading "Overhaul of Power Policy mooted" wherein the National Working Group on Power sector has renewed its call for a review of the private sector power policy which has failed to take off in any significant manner;

(b) if so, the outlines of the suggestions received by Government in this behalf and the action proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue a detailed white paper on the subject as suggested by the said Working Group, and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) The suggestions made are broadly to strengthen the public sector review private sector policy, give Central Electricity Authority the importance it requires and to preserve and strengthen the structure of the Indian power sector. Taking into account the changing scenario in the power sector and the poor financial position of State Electricity Boards. Government has adopted a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power after extensive discussions with the State Governments. The Action Plan forms the basis for improving the performance of the power sector.

Power Scarcity In Delhi

544. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of POWER be please to state:

(a) whether Delhi continues to reel under acute power-scaracity with prolonged power-shedding and break-downs this summer;

(b) the power-supplies available to the capital from different sources and the extent of shortage of power; and

(c) what steps have been taken to conserve energy and to make optimum use thereof for priority sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH):

(a) During April-June. 1997 the energy shortage and peak deficit in Delhi was 1.0% and 4.0% respectively. The Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) announced a programme of load shedding for one hour in various localities on a rotation basis during May and June. 1997 in order to maintain the balance between demand